(i) Integrated Development of Tropical Temperate and Arid Fruits.

(ii) Integrated Programme for Development of Cashew nuts.

(iii) Use of plastics in agriculture

(iv) Development of commercial floriculture.

(v) Development of mushroom.

(vi) Integrated programme for the development of spices.

(vii) Development of Vegetable.

(viii) Development of Root and Tuber crops.

The following is the funds released during the last three years for the development of horticulture of Arunachal Pradesh:—

(Rs. in lakhs)

Funds	released
1997-98	142.15
1998-99	224.17
1999-2000	195.35

Besides the above schemes, the Government proposes to launch a Technology Mission for the integrated development of Horticulture in the North East Region including Sikkim. The mission endeavours to establish convergence and synergy among numerous ongoing government programme in the field of horticulture development to achieve horizontal and vertical integration of these programmes to ensure adequate, appropriate, timely and concurrent attention to all the links in the production, post harvest and consumption chain.

Problems faced by Haj Pilgrims

†*475. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK:
PROF. RAM GOPAL YADAV:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Government managers cause much harassment

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

to Haj pilgrims and cheat them every year;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the problems faced by pilgrims are not removed by Government even though they have made their position clear;

(c) if not, the reaction of Government on the newsitem capationed "Haj Karao Karodo Khao" published under "Najariya' in "Rashtriya Sahara' on the 4th April, 2000; and

(d) the line of action ascertained by Government for the welfare of Haj pilgrims in future?

THE MINISTER OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (c) No Sir. However, some problems relating to accommodation in Makkah and delays at Jeddah Airport at the time of return of pilgrims have come to the attention of the Government. After each Haj, the Government reviews the arrangements in India and in Saudi Arabia and corrective measures are taken for the next Haj. This is an ongoing process.

(d) As Haj-2000 is still in progress, detailed reports from the Government agencies involved in the management of Haj in India and abroad are awaited.

Development of Hilly Areas of Assam

*476. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) Whether some projects for the development of hilly areas of Assam have been undertaken under the scheme of Special Central Financial Assistance;

(b) is so, details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING, MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF STATISTICS AND PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION AND MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ADMINISTRATIVE REFORMS AND PUBLIC GRIEVANCES IN THE MINISTRY OF PERSONNEL, PUBLIC GRIEVANCES AND PENSIONS (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE): (a) to (c) Special Central Assistance is allocated to the hill areas of Assam, namely, North Cachhar District and Karbi Anglong District under the Hill Areas Development Programme. The allocation under this programme during the Annual Plan 1999-2000 is Rs. 50.90 crores. The State